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## *Spy Sentenced to Life Imprisonment*

San Francisco—James Durward Harper, Jr., was sentenced May 14 to life in prison for selling U. S. missile secrets to Polish agents, who turned them over to the Soviet Union (AW&ST Oct. 24, 1983, p. 20).

Harper initially was charged with nine counts of espionage and income tax evasion, but all but one of these charges were dropped in return for his cooperation in the government's continuing investigation of others involved in his spying activities. Harper pleaded guilty to a single espionage count on Apr. 16.

An affidavit filed by the FBI at the time of Harper's arrest said that an individual—later identified as Harper—had been introduced to a Polish agent by William Bell Hugle, a Silicon Valley entrepreneur. The affidavit also said that Ruby Louise Schuler, Harper's now-deceased wife, made classified documents relating to the Minuteman missile and the ballistic missile defense program available to Harper. Schuler at the time was employed with Systems Control, Inc., and Systems Control Technology, Inc., of Palo Alto. During the April hearing at which he pleaded guilty,

Harper also implicated Hugle's wife, Bevalyn, and Jack Stouffer of Santa Clara, Calif.

John L. Martin, chief of the internal security section of the Justice Dept. Criminal Div., said there have been about 18 espionage convictions in the U. S. since 1975, and that Harper's case ranks among the most serious of them.

According to the FBI, Harper received more than \$250,000 over a four-year period for the material he delivered to the Polish secret service. Martin said the size of the payments was a measure of the value that the Soviets attached to the material.

According to the FBI affidavit, an Army official described the documents stolen by Harper as containing extremely sensitive research and development efforts that would enable the Minuteman missile and other U. S. strategic forces to survive a preemptive nuclear attack by the Soviet Union. The official, John Cunningham of the Ballistic Missile Defense Project Office, told FBI special agent Allan M. Power that the value of these documents to Warsaw Pact military planners is beyond calculation.